

Remarks

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,147,994 (Duree). The present Application has an effective filing date of September 9, 1995 (See the Application, page 1, lines 4-5; and see the Amendment dated July 12, 2002, pages 2-3). Duree has an effective filing date of May 28, 1996. (See Duree, Related U.S. Application Data). The present Application has an earlier effective filing date than Duree, so Duree is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 7-8.



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